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Australian rail on the fast track to success at Innotrans

Australian rail design, manufacturing and management capability will be on display at Innotrans 2012 as the industry gears up to deliver billions of euros in new domestic infrastructure.

Australia already boasts the world's largest tram network and some of its longest, heaviest freight trains.

Its rail industry provides innovative engineering solutions in some of the world's harshest environments and is currently planning new projects ranging from light rail to high speed and freight.

Austrade Senior Trade Commissioner for Western Europe Nicola Watkinson said a delegation of 60 Australian industry representatives would attend Innotrans this year.

"Australia has the strongest GDP growth forecast of any developed economy in 2013 and needs to expand its rail capacity," Ms Watkinson said.

"We already transport 1 billion tonnes of mining freight annually but will require at least one additional freight train per week and new infrastructure worth around €10 billion to meet the expected increase in demand."

Passenger rail is also forging ahead in Australia with projects like Sydney's €6.9 billion North West Rail link and the planned €4.3 billion Regional Rail Link to Melbourne.

Other passenger rail highlights include:

- Preliminary planning for an East Coast high speed rail link
- Forecast government expenditure of at least €1.4 billion per annum
- Expected demand of up to 300 cars per annum for 20 years

Australia's official Rail Supplier Advocate, Bruce Griffiths, will lead the delegation to Innotrans.

"Australian rail suppliers are among the most diverse and innovative in the world and are looking forward to forging strong international collaboration with companies in Asia and Europe," Mr Griffiths said.

"Innotrans is the best place to learn about new technology, partake in world's best manufacturing process and develop long-lasting relationships with rail firms."

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